

FIG. 1

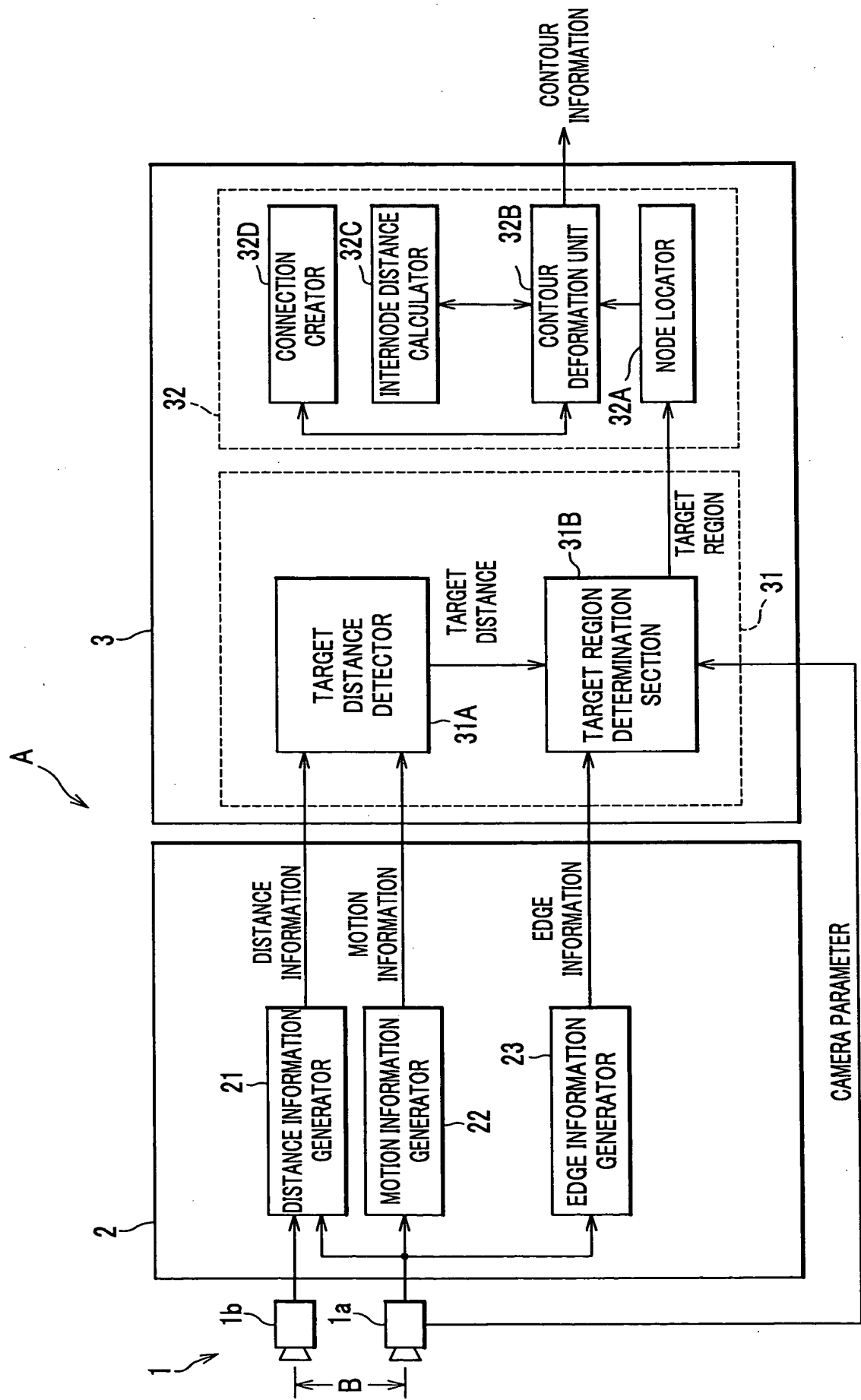


FIG.2A

DISTANCE IMAGE P1

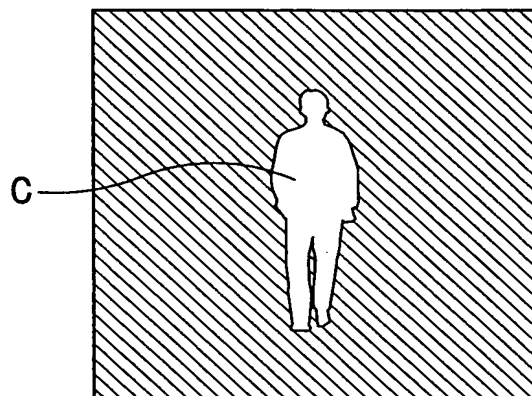


FIG.2B

DIFFERENCE IMAGE P2

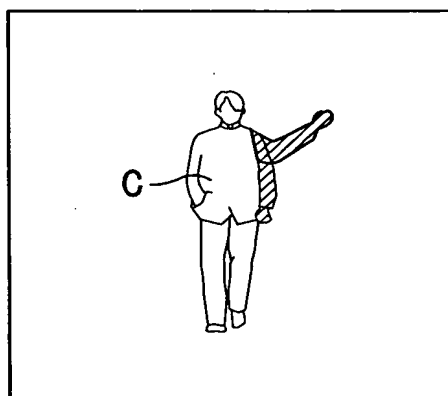


FIG.2C

EDGE IMAGE P3

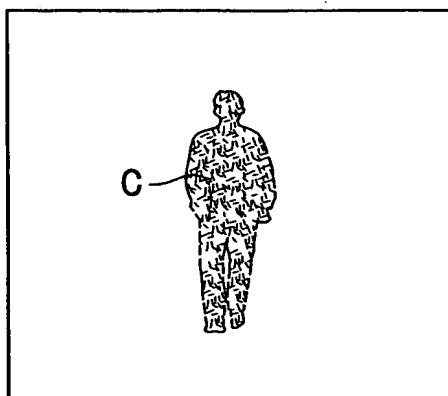


FIG.3A

DETERMINATION OF TARGET DISTANCE D1

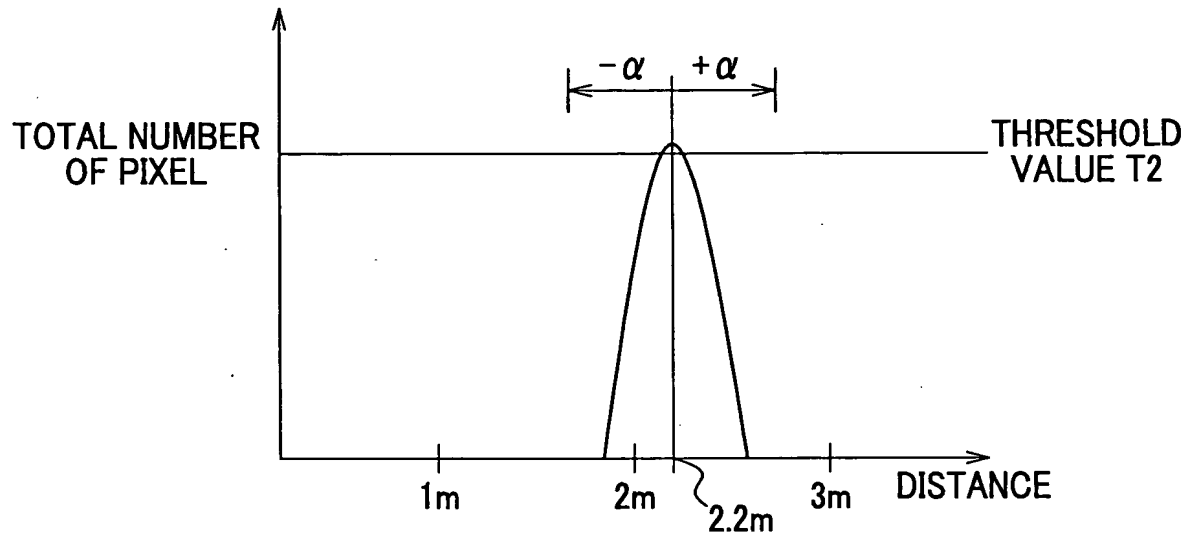


FIG.3B

GENERATION OF TARGET DISTANCE IMAGE P4

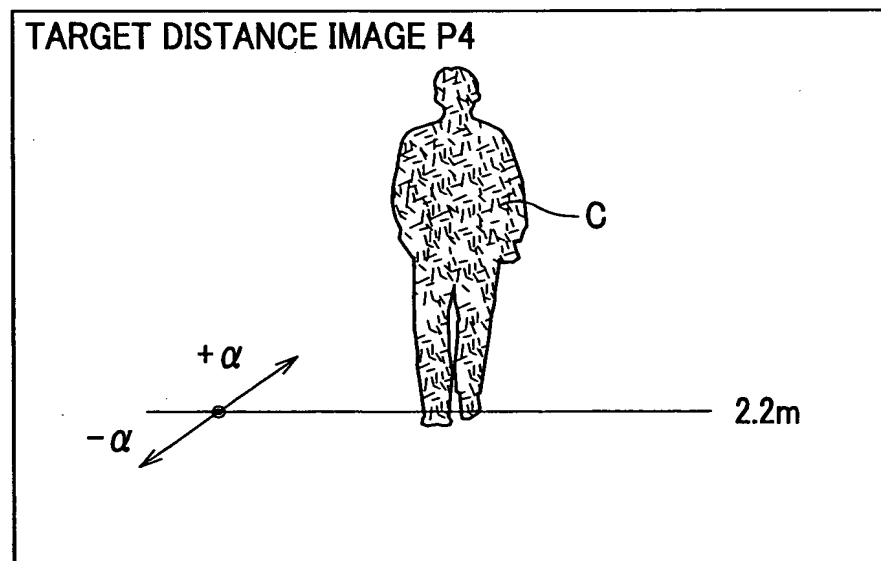


FIG.4A

DETERMINATION OF TARGET REGION A(1)

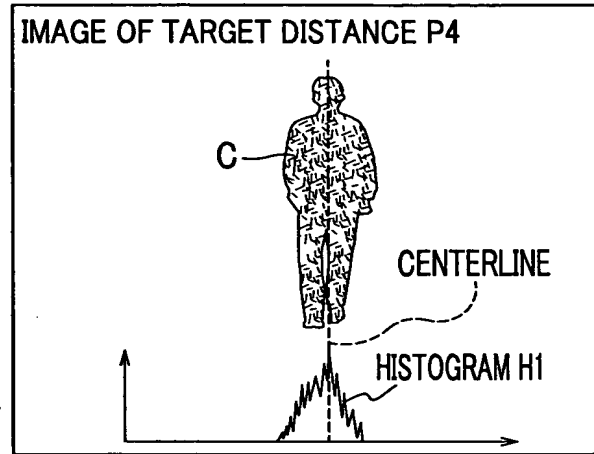


FIG.4B

DETERMINATION OF TARGET REGION A(2)

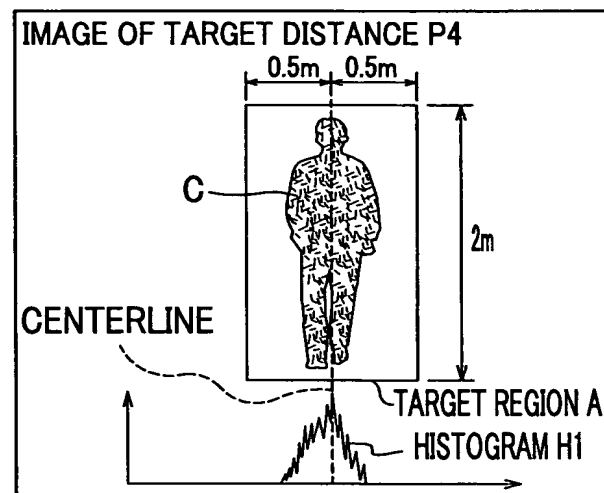


FIG.5A

ARRANGING NODES P_i ($i=1,2,\dots,n$)

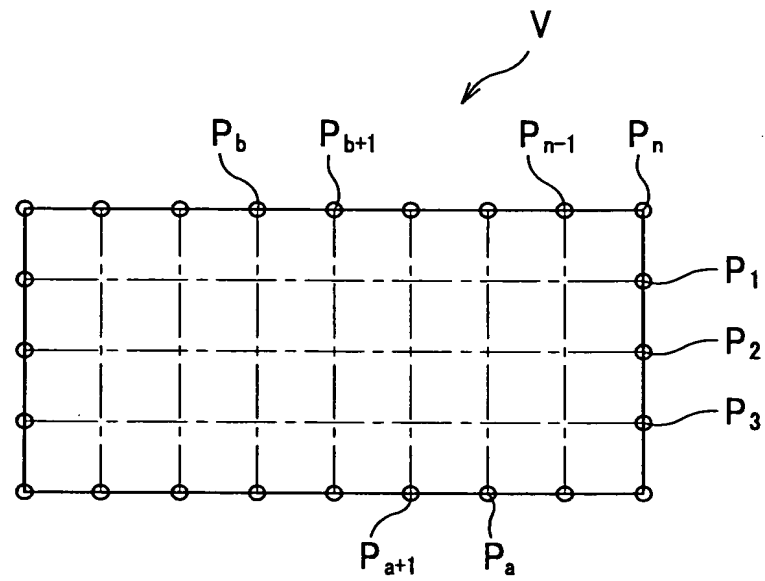


FIG.5B

DEFORMING CONTOUR V

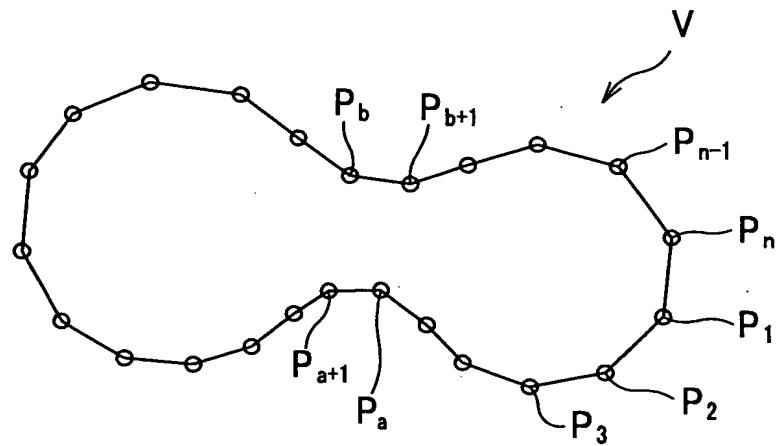


FIG.6A

MEASURING INTERNODE DISTANCE D2

MEASURING INTERNODE DISTANCE D2
FROM NODE P_1 TO P_3, P_4, \dots, P_{n-1} , RESPECTIVELY.

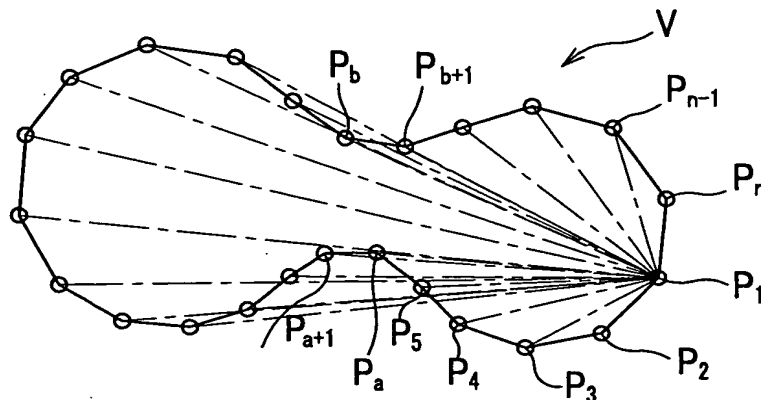


FIG.6B

MEASURING INTERNODE DISTANCE D2
FROM NODE P_2 TO P_4, P_5, \dots, P_n , RESPECTIVELY.

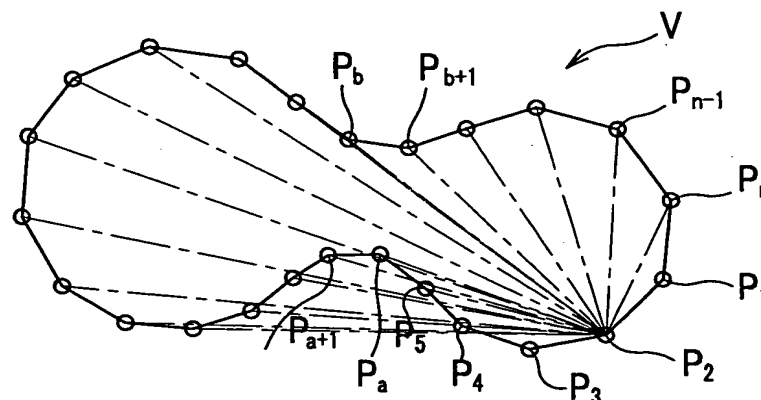


FIG.6C

MEASURING INTERNODE DISTANCE D2
FROM NODE P_{n-2} TO P_n

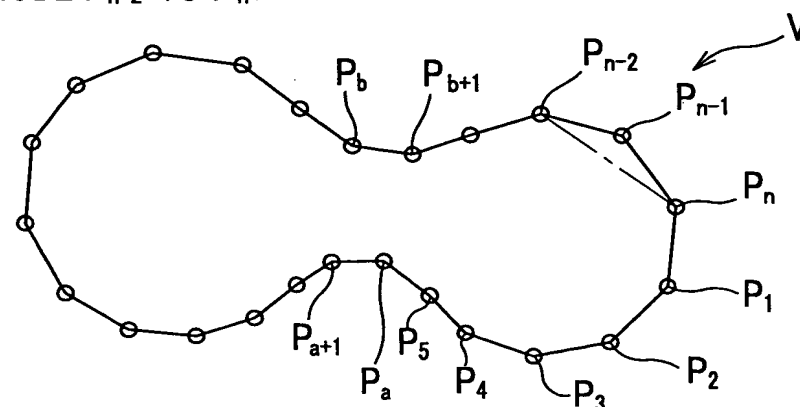


FIG.7A

SEARCHING COMBINATION (P_a, P_b) OF NODES P_i THAT SATISFIES $D_2 \leq D_3$.

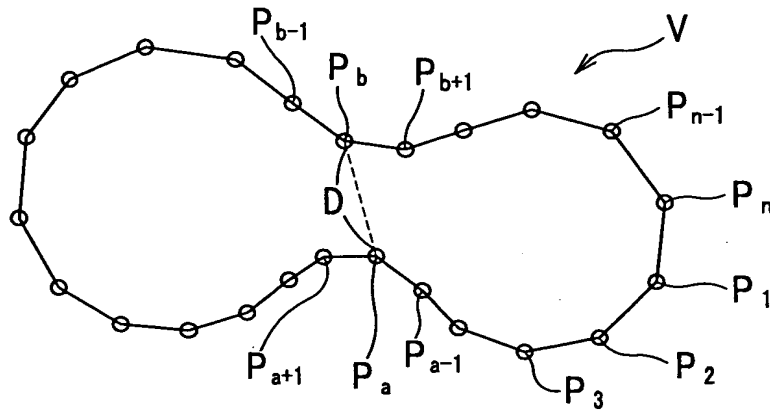


FIG.7B

CREATING CONNECTION LINES L_1 AND L_2 .

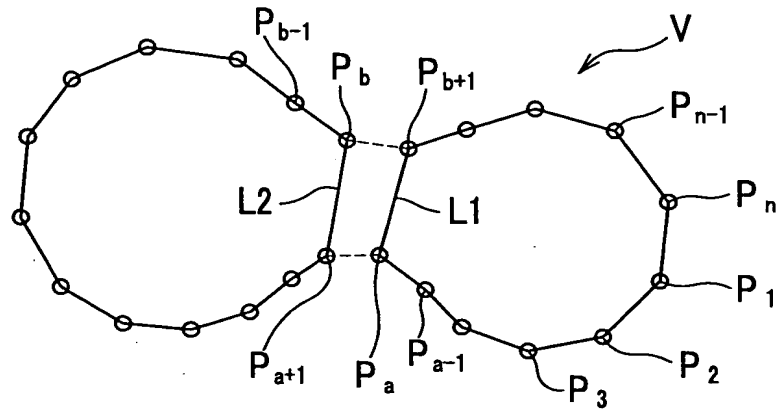


FIG.7C

DIVIDING CONTOUR V INTO CONTOURS V_1 AND V_2 .

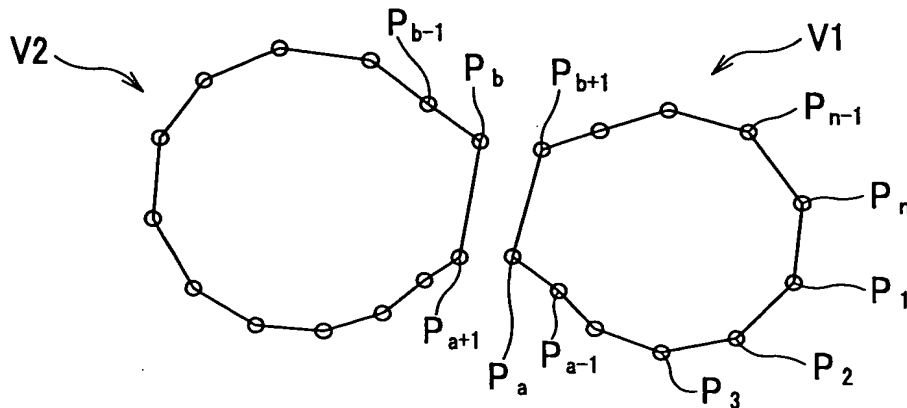


FIG.8

PROCESSING IN CONTOUR EXTRACTION SYSTEM A

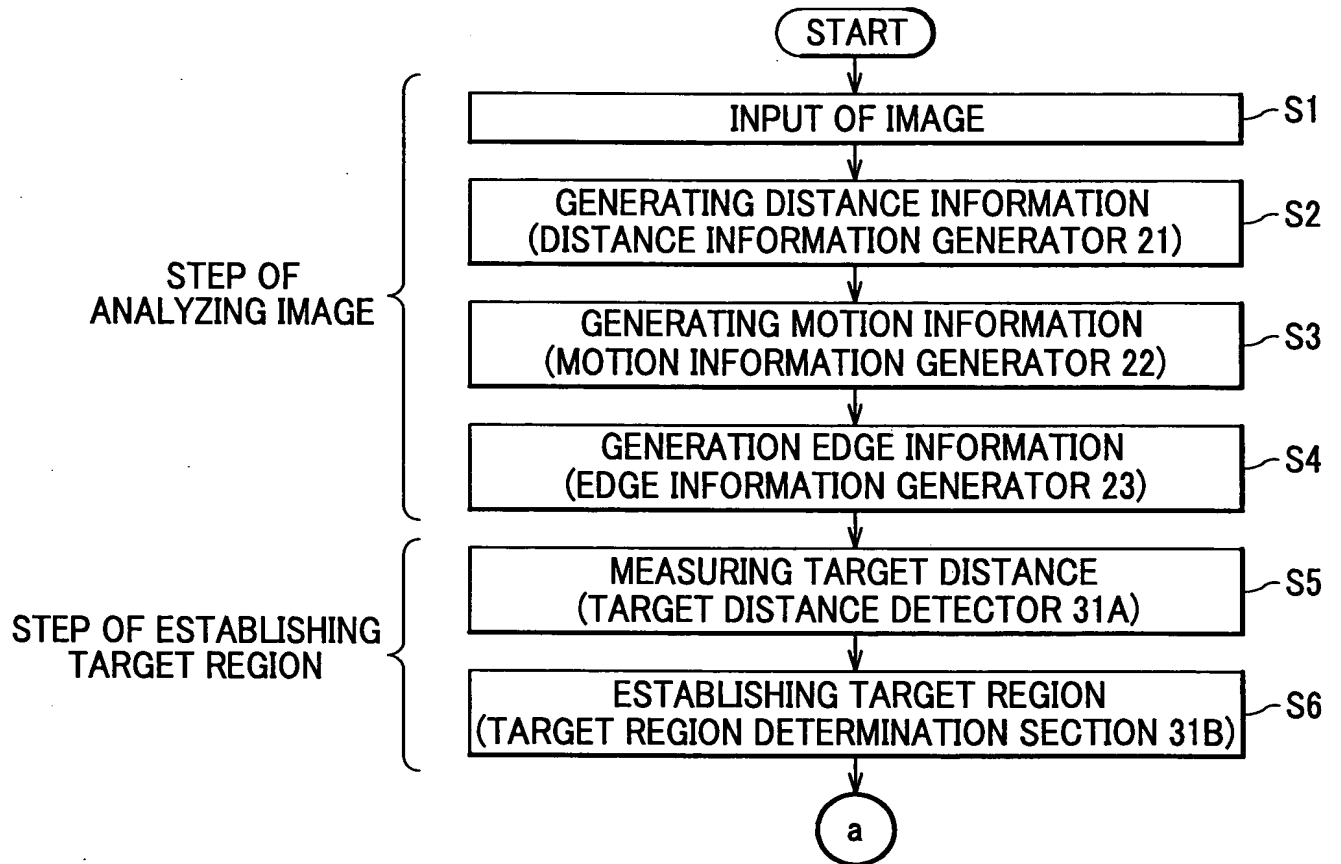


FIG.9

PROCESSING IN CONTOUR EXTRACTION SYSTEM A

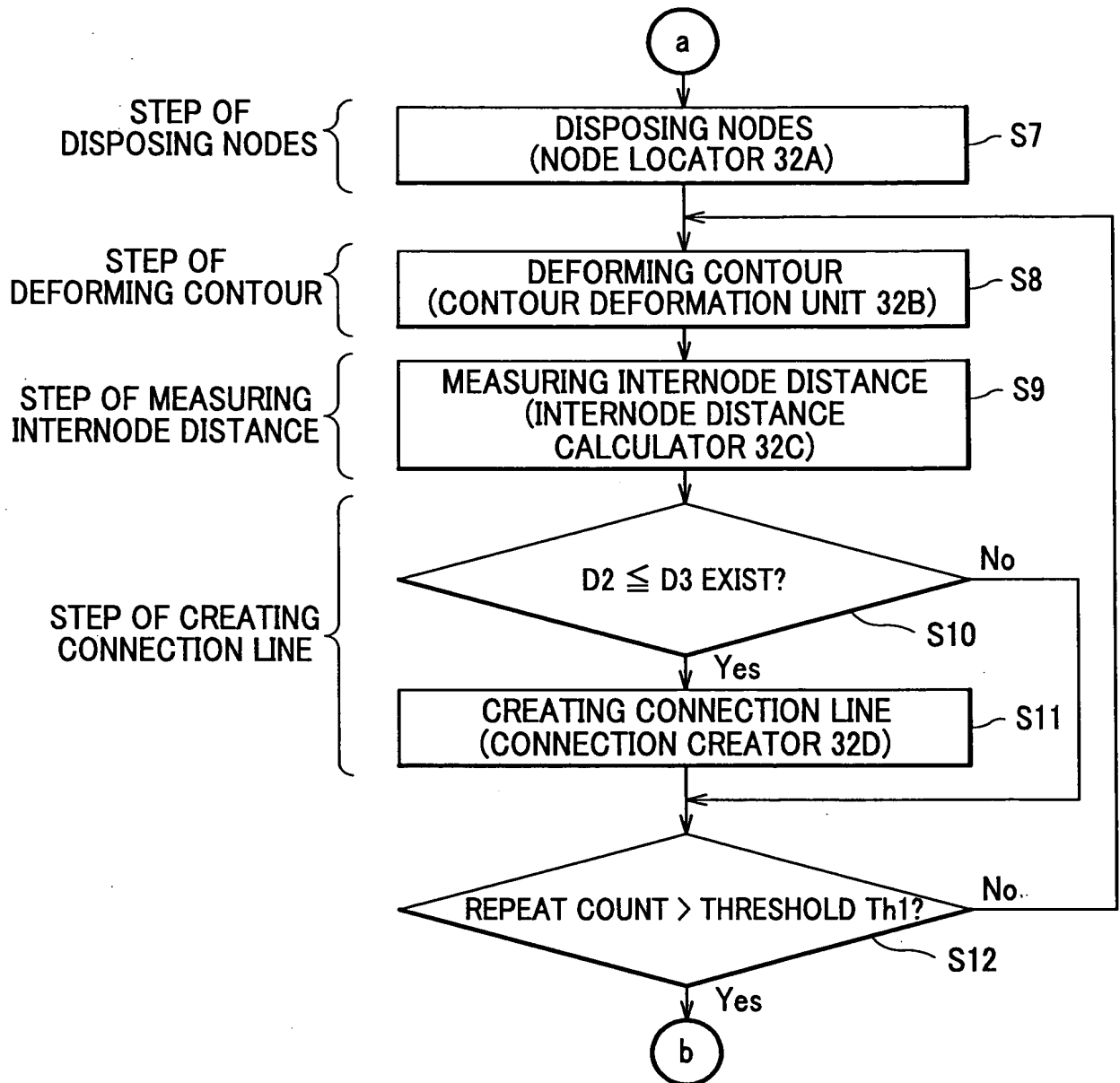


FIG.10

PROCESSING IN CONTOUR EXTRACTION SYSTEM A

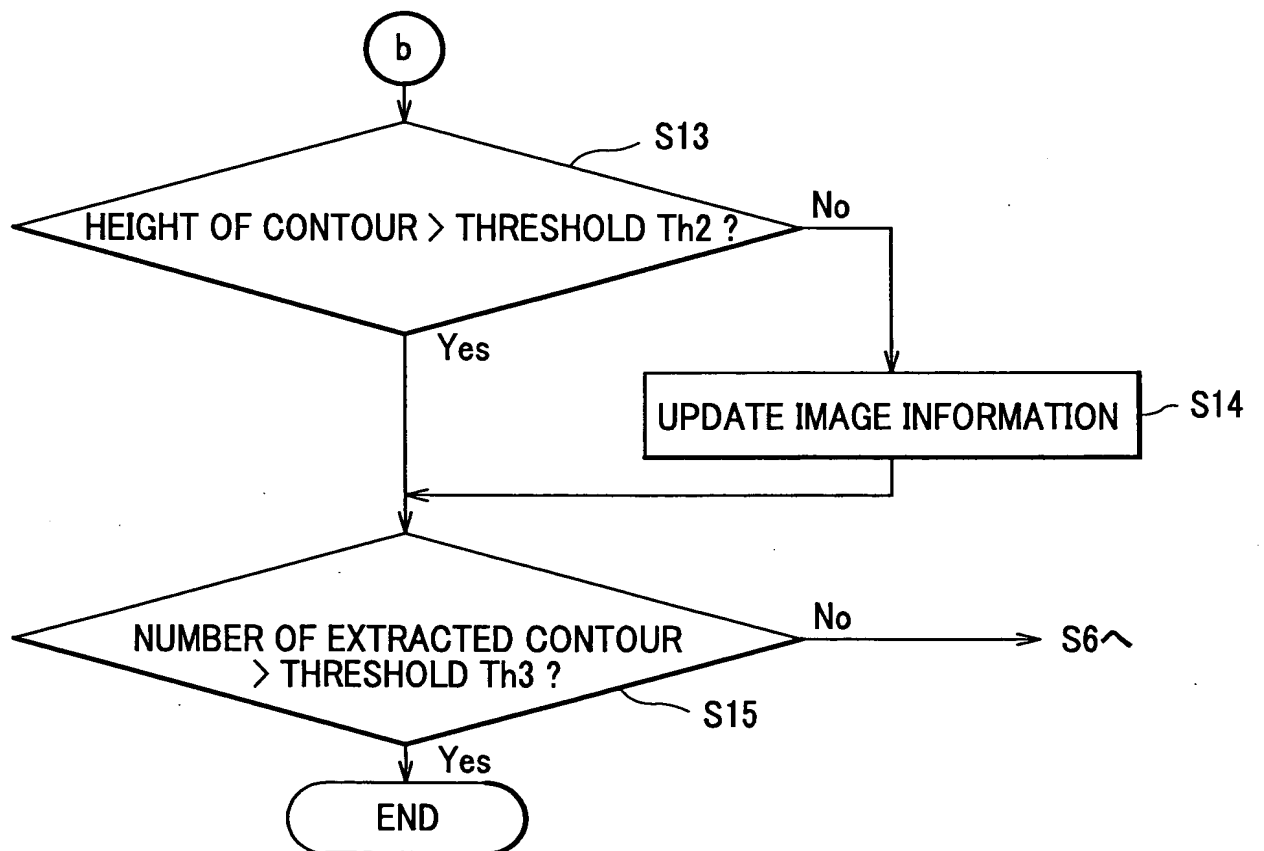


FIG.11A
RELEVANT ART

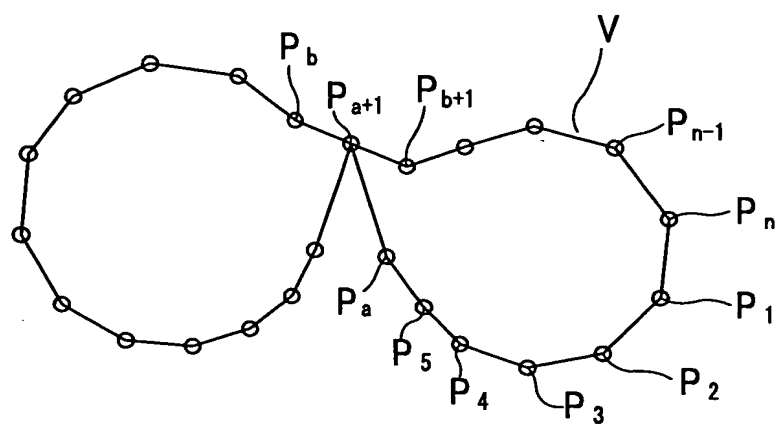


FIG.11B
RELEVANT ART

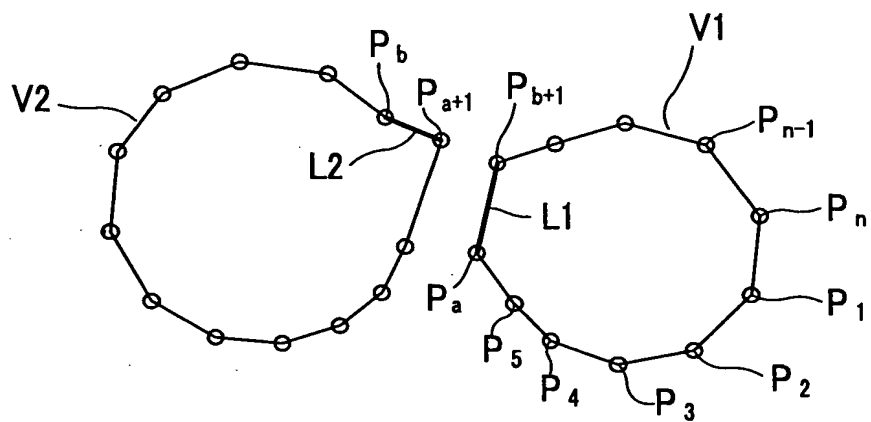


FIG.12A
RELEVANT ART

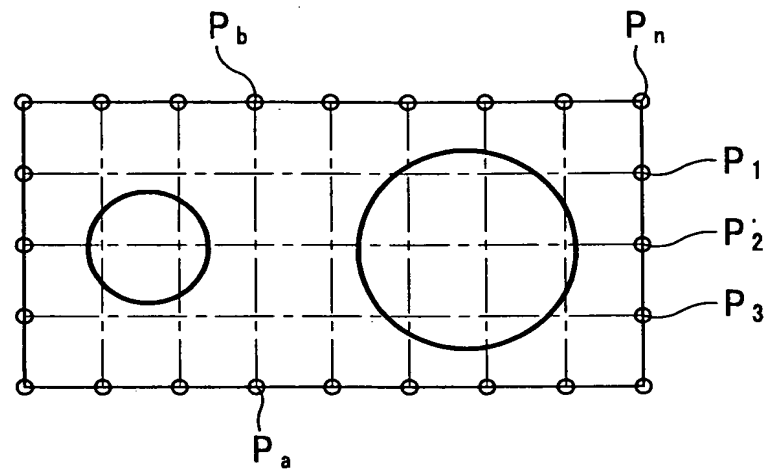


FIG.12B
RELEVANT ART

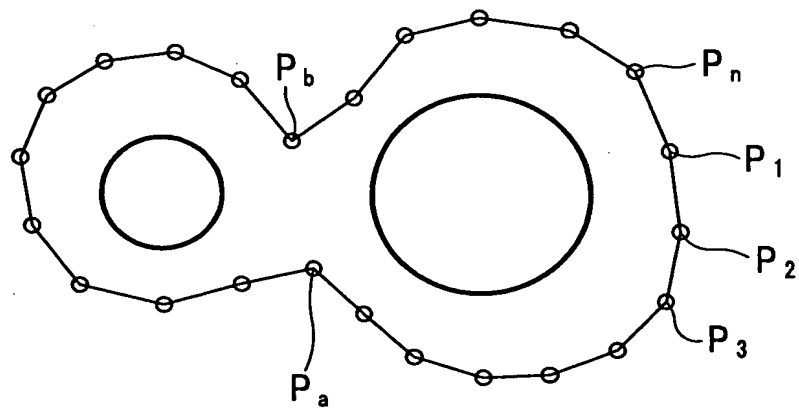


FIG.12C
RELEVANT ART

